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whence I departed, after a couple of days' rest in the house of the British political agent, Captain D. Lorimer. I returned to Denmark via Bombay-Triest and arrived in Copenhagen on Sunday, June 2.

I carried out my work in accordance with the plan of the Committee, which was that, apart from a few questions of Mesopotamian agriculture, the journey of geographical exploration should begin at Basrah. Regarding the journey from Basrah to Adjer, I, of course, gave special attention to drawing a route map, which I constructed with the aid of the rates of marching and prismatic compass (or dioptric compass) bearings, the use of more complicated instruments being impossible owing to the hostility of the population. Even with the compass I had difficulties, but nevertheless I succeeded during the whole journey in taking my bearings every fifteen minutes with the exception of a couple of days between Medjma'a and Riadh, where a severe illness compelled me to take my observations with longer intervals. Topographical description ran parallel with the map-drawing. I have gathered much information concerning political questions, the caravan trade, periodical wanderings of the nomads, etc.

On the other hand, I have not brought home any botanical collections, although I was prepared to do so; the distrust and fanaticism of the population were insurmountable obstacles. For the same reason it was exceedingly difficult to take photographs, but by using different expedients, I was able, nevertheless, to secure a considerable number of photographs and drawings from central and eastern Arabia. Besides these results (to be published during the winter 1912-13) come the results of the investigations that were the main object of the journey: to carry out a geographical reconnaissance the results of which might serve as a base for future expeditions of the Royal Danish Geographical Society in Arabia.

SOME DETAILS OF MR. STEFÀNSSON'S GEOGRAPHICAL WORK

Late in August, word came from Mr. V. Stefànsson and Dr. R. M. Anderson, his associate, by way of Point Barrow and Nome, that they were returning from their field of ethnological and geographical research in northern Alaska, Northern Canada, and the southwestern part of the Parry Archipelago. Mr. Stefànsson returned to New York in September.

The Society recently received a letter from Mr. Stefànsson dated "Mouth of the Kugaryuak River (18 miles east of the Coppermine R.), Coronation Gulf, April 24, 1911," in which he gives the following summary of the results of some of his discoveries, and outlines his plans for the traveling season of last year:

"The Coppermine River at various points,from fifty to seventy-five miles from the sea, has a width of no more than 135 or 140 yards. The average width is not much, if any, over 200 yards. The average width of Horton River, the same distance from the sea, is 350 to 400 yards, but the Coppermine is much the swifter stream and perhaps carries as much water as the Horton. In fact, the Coppermine is practically a continuous rapid for the lower seventy-five miles of its course, and broken ice is everywhere heaped in windrows. Ice cakes eleven or twelve inches thick and many square yards in area, in some cases, are piled into ridges in the manner of pressure ice on the unsheltered sea. Some of these ridges are fifteen to twenty feet high. Here and there are small stretches that have open water all winter. The current keeps them from freezing. The last open stretches in Horton River disappear in January. Compared with the Coppermine, the Horton is a good canoeing river—deep, free from rocks and with footing for "trackers" along its banks in most places.

"The most northerly trees (over five or six feet high) in the Coppermine Valley, as far as we know, are sixteen or eighteen miles from the sea; the most northerly sprigs of growing spruce are a mile and a half north of Bloody Fall, or less than six miles from the sea in an airline. To our surprise we found the other day a few small trees on the headwaters of the Kugaryuak, about twenty miles from the sea.

"The mouth of the Kugaryuak is about eighteen miles east of the most easterly mouth of the Coppermine. Its main branch comes from the southeast from an unknown distance. Its middle fork heads nearly south of the river's mouth about twenty miles inland. It is at the head of this branch that the trees are found. The Kugaryuak is about the size of the Dease or a trifle smaller.

"The ice in Coronation Gulf, west of Cape Barrow and south of the line of Cape Krusenstern, is in general level, though in some places there is a little rough ice even in apparently deep localities. On shoals there is, of course, pressure ice. The islands lie in regular chains—far more regular and far more numerous than our charts indicate. They vary from a fourth mile to five miles in length, but are of pretty uniform width—from a fourth to a half mile. The gaps between the ends of the islands vary from a few yards to three or four miles. The islands are in general of exactly the type of the hilltops in the ridges on the mainland both west and south of Coronation Gulf, precipices to the south and southeast, a twenty per cent. dip to the northwest or north; with talus slopes to the south and low beaches to the north. The chains have a general east and west true direction. Typically, the islands are of columnar basalt, their tops strewn with large and small boulders of foreign rock. In a few places we have found limestone strata in the faces of precipices.

"On beaches there is usually driftwood; enough for a one-night camp can be picked up on a half-mile of beach. Wood is always found chiefly on the northwest side of land (no doubt because all high tides are with northwest winds), a stick lodged by any other wind would be so low that the next high tide (the next northwest wind tide) would wash it off again. There is open water all winter in the narrows of Dolphin and Union Strait, just east of Lambert Island, caused by a strong current which generally, if not always, flows to the westward out of Coronation Gulf. That it is sometimes reversed I infer from the finding of a large (Mackenzie River?) cottonwood log on an island thirty miles east of the Coppermine River. This current and the fact that high tides come with northwest winds only, cause the coast from Cape Krusenstern to Back Inlet to be devoid of driftwood. The same causes make driftwood comparatively plentiful along the mainland shore of Dolphin and Union Strait and practically absent from the Victoria Land shore of the same strait.

"Some of the people we recently visited near Cape Barrow are in the habit of hunting in summer south to the woods on Hanbury's Cirk-i-li-nik River. We should retain on our maps the native names of places. The official maps of the Canadian Government and the British Admiralty are of no value to us in making inquiries about distant places, while the unpretentious maps in Hanbury's book are priceless to us through designating certain places by their native names. If it had not been for his map we might have supposed the Cirk-i-li-nik to be some small stream only a hundred miles or two from Cape Barrow, whereas it rises near Slave Lake and flows into Chesterfield Inlet.

"We have found that the Coppermine is roughly a dividing line between different kinds of caribou. On the Dease and in the Bear Lake woods, as well as on the Horton River and down on Cape Parry and Cape Bathurst, is found a larger, dark-faced, dark-legged and generally dark-skinned caribou with clean-cut head reminding one of the heads of horses; east of the Coppermine are light-haired, white-legged caribou, smaller, with short, donkey-like heads. This donkey-like appearance may be due partly to skeletal differences, but is probably caused chiefly by an abundant growth of hair on the face below the eyes. These white caribou are much easier to hunt than the darker ones. A few dark caribou are occasionally found east of the Coppermine R. among herds of light colored arrivals, and likewise a few light ones are found in herds of the darker caribou west of the river. Large herds of the lighter caribou are just now (and have been for two weeks) moving north across Coronation Gulf to Victoria Land.

"I have already written (*Bulletin, Amer. Geogr. Soc.,* 1911, Oct., pp. 771-775) of the possibility of finding evidence to show that some of Franklin's men survived for a time in Victoria Land. My work this spring had added nothing to the likelihood of this being discovered. The light beards, etc., become fewer and less pronounced as one goes east from the Coppermine towards Cape Barrow. We have been led to expect, however, that we shall find the European-like type stronger as we go north from the Cape Bexley people towards Walker Bay and beyond.

"For the present trip northward I have one companion, an Eskimo from Port Clarence, Alaska, called Natkusiak. We have one sled, six dogs, three rifles, 600 rounds of ammunition, some instruments, and provisions for two weeks. We expect to go up the west coast of Victoria Land as far north as it is inhabited, then cross to Banks Land, with those Eskimos who (we are told) hunt there in summer. If convenient we shall run up to the Bay of Mercy to see how everything is there. We then expect to spend the summer in Banks Land, perhaps going down to Cape Kellett in August on the chance of some whaler picking us up, for they often come near the Cape on their cruises for bowhead whales. If we do not see a ship, we shall try to reach Langton Bay by sled after Amundsen Gulf freezes—or rather, after the straits at the east end of the Gulf freeze—the Gulf itself probably never freezes permanently. As we go we shall buy a few of the more transportable, ethnological specimens we have a chance to get, make some small geological collections, and of course carry forward as best we can our routine work of investigation. We carry, too, a good supply of photo films."